

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00081 012155Z

12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 AID-20 /159 W

----- 087060

R 011740Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1569

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NS

SUBJECT: GOS SETS INDEPENDENCE DEADLINE AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

REF: PARAMARIBO 065

1. SUMMARY. DURING AN EXPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY, THE GOS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO BECOME INDEPENDENT BY THE END OF 1975. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A DATE TOOK THE OPPOSITION AS WELL AS THE GON, AMONG OTHERS, BY SURPRISE AND HAS PROVOKED CONTINUING ACrimonious DEBATE IN THE STATEN. REACTION IN GON CIRCLES WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 15, PRIME MINISTER ARRON READ A 2 1/2 HOUR REGERINGSVERKLARING (GOVERNMENT STATEMENT) TO THE SURINAM STATEN. ALTHOUGH THE DECLARATION HAD BEEN AWAITED AS A STATEMENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, THE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURE, THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK FULL INDEPENDENCE FROM THE NETHERLANDS BY THE END OF 1975, WAS UNEXPECTED BY MOST.

3. ARRON CLAIMED THE GOVERNMENT HAD A POPULAR MANDATE FOR EARLY AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE, THAT THE REALM COMMISSION HAS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00081 012155Z

DONE ENOUGH RESEARCH ON THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THAT

IT SHOULD COMPLETE ITS WORK SO THAT THE DECEMBER 1975 DEADLINE CAN BE OBSERVED. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF THE TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GON, GONA, AND GOS SHOULD BECOME AN OBSTACLE, THEN INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH HOLLAND. ACCORDINGLY, THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, NOW A PART OF THE MINISTRY OF GENERAL AFFAIRS, WILL BE REORGANIZED AND REORIENTED TO CONDUCT THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE INTENSIFIED. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO CREATE A NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG SURINAMERS AND ALSO A GREATER EQUALITY AMONG SURINAMERS.

4. REGARDING DEVELOPMENT POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SHIFT FROM THE PRESENT PROJECT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT TO A PROGRAM-ORIENTED APPROACH. THE GROWTH OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL EMPHASIS. TRADITIONAL SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE (GON) EEC, UNDP) WILL CONTINUE TO BE UTILIZED ALTHOUGH THE GOS WILL ALSO SEEK ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF FOREIGN AID.

5. THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ENTERPRISES WILL ENJOY A PRIORITY WHERE POSSIBLE, OTHERWISE JOINT VENTURES WILL BE ENCOURAGED. PRODUCTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE STIMULATED BY ENCOURAGING PRIVATE INVESTMENTS.

6. THE STATEMENT ALSO PROPOSED A NUMBER OF OTHER GOALS INCLUDING BETTER CONTROLS OVER THE BUDGET, REINVESTMENT OF MORE OF INDUSTRY'S PROFITS IN SURINAM, A DECISION SOON ON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS IN WEST SURINAM, OBLIGATORY LABOR SERVICE FOR ALL YOUTHS LEAVING SCHOOL.

7. DEBATE IN THE STATEN ON THE DECLARATION CENTERED PRIMARILY ON THE INDEPENDENCE QUESTION AND WAS EXCEPTIONALLY HEATED. THE VHP OPPOSITION, MOSTLY HINDUSTANI, AND THE NPK GOVERNMENT MAJORITY, MOSTLY CREOLE, LACED THEIR ARGUMENTS WITH RACIAL REFERENCES. ON THE SECOND DAY OF DEBATE, FEBRUARY 19, THE OPPOSITION ABANDONED THE HALL EN BLOC WHEN STATEN SPEAKER WIJNTUIN (NPK) ORDERED A HINDUSTANI SPECTATOR EXPELLED FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY WHO HAD AUDIBLY AGREED WITH REMARKS BY VHP MEMBER HINDORIE. SINCE THE SEATING OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT IN JANUARY, THE 17-MEMBER VHP OPPOSITION HAD WATCHED WHILE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARAMA 00081 012155Z

THE PREDOMINANTLY CREOLE PUBLIC GALLERY BOISTEROUSLY CHEERED ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE AND APPLAUDED THE NPK'S SALLIES AT THE VHP, WITH ONLY MILD REPROVALS BY STATEN SPEAKER WIJNHUIN. ON A LATER OCCASION WIJNTUIN ORDERED A VHP SPEAKER TO LEAVE THE HALL FOR DISRESPECTFUL REMARKS TO HIM. OPPOSITION LEADER LACHMON WAS BOOED FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY ON THE FINAL DAY OF DEBATE WHEN HE TOLD THE STATEN THAT SURINAM WAS NOT READY

FOR INDEPENDENCE AND THAT AN INDEPENDENT SURINAM WOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY THEFT, ARSON, MURDER, AND BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER.

8. IN HIS REPLY TO THE OPPOSITION ARRON DENIED THAT THE INDEPENDENCE DATE WAS A RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM PNR LEADER BRUMA, AND CITED EARLIER DOCUMENTS FROM ALL THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES WHICH CALLED FOR SPEEDY INDEPENDENCE. HE ANNOUNCED THAT WITHIN SIX WEEKS HE AND THE GON AND GONA PRIME MINISTERS WOULD MEET TO DISCUSS THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED LEADING TO SURINAM'S INDEPENDENCE. ARRON DESCRIBED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON JOINT VENTURES AS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AS ITS AIM IS THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC POSITION OF ALL SURINAMERS. HE INDICATED THAT THE GOS MIGHT SEEK A LARGER ROLE IN DECISION MAKING IN FUTURE JOINT VENTURES. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM A LEFTIST NPK MEMBER, ARRON SAID AN INDEPENDENT SURINAM WOULD FOLLOW A NEUTRALIST FOREIGN POLICY.

9. COMMENT. THIS MARKS THE FIRST TIME ANY GOS HAS FIXED A SPECIFIC INDEPENDENCE TARGET. THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAUSED GENERAL SURPRISE IN THE MEDIA AND IN POLITICAL CIRCLES OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE SPHERE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHERE THE DECISION ON THE INDEPENDENCE DATE WAS MADE. IT WAS NOT REFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES FOR APPROVAL. APPARENTLY, AN EARLIER DRAFT PROVIDED F
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, SELFDETERMINATION, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARAMA00081
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740375/aaaacrgf.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARAMARIBO 065
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 28 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOS SETS INDEPENDENCE DEADLINE AND GOVERNMENT POLICY
TAGS: PINT, NS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005